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Assessment Team Office Hours

Next Session: November 9, 12:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)



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ASSESSMENT MONTHLY UPDATE



From Our Families to Yours, Have a Relaxing & Peaceful Thanksgiving

Assessment Calendar Now Available

The assessment calendar for the 2022-2023 school year is now available. The [schedule is available on our web site](#) and as a printable PDF.

Coming Soon!

The Assessment Team will soon be rolling out a redesigned web site that will be much more user friendly!



Technical Assistance and Support

Throughout the month of October and the Fall 2022 administration of MAP Growth, the Assessment Team had the opportunity to connect with and provide technical assistance to many Maine SAUs around the state. As a reminder, the Team is available to support across the Maine Educational Assessments – please don't hesitate to get in touch with an assessment coordinator or submit a request via the [Technical Assistance Request Form](#).

MSAA & MSAA Science

Many thanks to the Maine educators who recently participated in the ELA Passages Bias/Sensitivity Review for next year's assessment forms. They bring the critical lens to the ongoing development cycle of Maine's alternate assessments, by reviewing proposed passages and for potential bias and sensitivity barriers to the student whom they serve.

NEW: [Alternate Assessment Timeline 2022-2023](#)

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test 2023

Stay informed and plan ahead for the Alternate ACCESS Field Test, which will be in addition to the regular annual Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. Review this news article and Q & A to learn more: Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test: Coming to schools in early 2023. Sign up for news updates at News Signup at WIDA and be sure to check for updates posted in the DAC digest.

ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Mark your calendar for these upcoming ACCESS for ELLs Trainings offered by WIDA:

- Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators Tuesday, November 15 at 2:00 pm ET
- During Testing: Managing Students in WIDA AMS Thursday, November 17 at 2:00pm ET
- Alternate ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators Tuesday, November 22 at 2:00pm ET

More information, including the webinar link, can be found in the WIDA Secure Portal on the [Webinars](#) page.

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators Tuesday, November 22 at 1:00-2:00pm CT

How do I get my questions about the field test answered? Attend the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test Q&A Webinar on Thursday, Dec. 1 from 2-3:30pm ET. Go to the Webinars page in the WIDA Secure Portal for more information.

[For more information on the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, click here!](#)



NWEA

Professional Learning Opportunities Survey

Starting in January 2023, the Department of Education and NWEA are collaborating to offer the following professional learning opportunities:

- Using Multiple Data Sources to Support Student Growth
- Using Achievement Level Descriptors to Ensure Rigor
- Getting Started: Why We Use the Through Year Assessment Model
- Through Year Assessment: Get Your Teachers Ready
- Through Year Assessment: Get Your Students Ready

To help the Department select the dates and times for the professional learning opportunities that work best for the field, please share [this survey](#) with your teachers, administrators, curriculum directors, technology coordinators, and assessment coordinators and complete [by November 7](#). We appreciate and look forward to your input as we plan our professional learning schedule for the Maine Through Year Assessment.

FAQ: Why are we making this transition from MAP Growth to the Maine Through Year Assessment?

The NWEA MAP Growth assessment was adopted as an emergency measure during the pandemic to meet schools' needs for immediate, actionable data. MAP Growth was an interim assessment solution while the Department of Education worked collaboratively with NWEA to develop a state assessment that meets all federal requirements. The Maine Through Year Assessment will provide the opportunity for Maine educators to continue utilizing an assessment tool that they find helpful and necessary in instructional decision making. By maneuvering to a through year approach, students will now be assessed on grade-level content with a performance level assigned, and they will also receive a RIT score which provides continuity of longitudinal data for those Maine SAUs that have used NWEA for some time. Additionally, in order for a state assessment to meet federal peer review requirements, it must include a criterion-referenced, summative portion that aligns with grade-level state standards. Because the NWEA MAP Growth assessment is a norm-referenced assessment, it does not meet these federal requirements and, as such, is not a long-term assessment solution.

More FAQs about the Maine Through Year Assessment can be found on our [Maine Reading and Math Assessments webpage](#).

Resources for Interpreting and Using NWEA MAP Growth Data

As SAUs review their MAP Growth data from the Spring 2022 and Fall 2022 administrations within the NWEA MAP Growth platform (MARC), NWEA provides several useful resources for interpreting and utilizing data to inform instruction. Those resources can be found in the Your Data section of the [NWEA MAP Growth Help Center](#), which can also be accessed through the MARC platform. These include tools for understanding NWEA MAP Growth reports as well as instructional resources.

Maine Science

Assessment Blueprints Now Available!

Assessment blueprints are now available for the Maine Science Assessment for grades 5, 8, and HS under Resources for Teachers and Curriculum Coordinators on the [Maine Science Assessment webpage](#). All items on the Maine Science Assessment are aligned to a science topic and to a specific performance expectation. To ensure ample coverage of all grade-level science topics, assessment blueprints specify targets for the minimum and maximum number of score points aligned to each topic.



Spring 2022 Score Results

Spring 2022 student results reports will be released later this fall with educators able to review within Maine's Assessment & Accountability Reporting System (MAARS). At this time, the Department of Education is completing quality assurance checks and then will then submit the data to Focal Point, our reporting vendor, for release in MAARS.

Practice Assessments

Maine Science practice assessments and tutorials are available on the [Maine Science website under the Resources](#) menu and will be open throughout the school year.

NAEP

The National Assessment Governing Board hosted the [release of the 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\) Mathematics and Reading results](#) on Monday, October 24, 2022. The results include national and state level score for grade 4 and grade 8 students in mathematics and reading along with insights into student's learning experiences collected through school, teacher, and student surveys. This release provided the most comprehensive picture to date, of the pandemic's impact on student achievement nationally.

In addition to the student performance and survey data, a number of the NAEP 2022 mathematics and reading items were released. These items, in conjunction with the NAEP Item Maps, are available for classroom use. Please visit the [NAEP Questions Tool](#) and the [NAEP Item Maps](#) webpages for greater detail.

International Assessments

PISA

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022 administration window is currently open and will be closing on November 25, 2022. Selected 15-year-old students participate in mathematics, reading, science, and financial literacy assessments.

TIMSS

The Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2023 administration window will now take place between March 20 and May 31, 2023. TIMSS is administered to grade 4 and grade 8 students at sampled schools. Three Maine schools have been selected for participation in the TIMSS.



NEO & SYNERGY Reminders

A general reminder to ensure that contact information for teaching and non-teaching roles is updated within NEO. Instructions to update SAU roles (including DACs) are located within the following document: [Updating Staff Contact Information](#). Please reach out to the MEDMS helpdesk with any questions or concerns.